



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/708,862	03/29/2004	Trevor Honeyman	1320.10	2861

21901 7590 04/20/2006

SMITH HOPEN, PA
180 PINE AVENUE NORTH
OLDSMAR, FL 34677

EXAMINER

LEE, CLOUD K

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
----------	--------------

3753

DATE MAILED: 04/20/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/708,862

Applicant(s)

HONEYMAN ET AL.

Examiner

Cloud K. Lee

Art Unit

3753

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 29 March 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-17 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 4-14 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 1-3 and 15-17 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 3/29/2004 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☒ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☒ Other: See Continuation Sheet.

Continuation of Attachment(s) 6). Other: Translated European Patent Application No. 0 594 020.

Priority

1. The present application has been improperly indicated as the National Stage (35 USC 371) of an International Application (see the letter of May 24, 2004). Applicant has also not claimed priority under 35 USC 120 to the PCT. Therefore, the filing of the present application is March 29, 2004 and there is no continuity to the PCT.

Acknowledgment is made of applicant's claim for priority under 35 U.S.C. 119(a)-(d) based upon an application filed in the United Kingdom on September 28, 2001 and December 13, 2001. A claim for priority under 35 U.S.C. 119(a)-(d) cannot be based on said application, since the United States application was filed more than twelve months thereafter. The Application Data Sheet and the first paragraph of the specification also incorrectly identify the present application as the National Stage (35 USC 371) of an International Application.

Claim Objections

2. Claims 4-14 are objected to under 37 CFR 1.75(c) as being in improper form because it depends on another multiple dependent claim (claim 3). See MPEP § 608.01(n). Accordingly, the claims 4-14 have not been further treated on the merits.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

Art Unit: 3753

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

4. Claims 1-3 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Dunnleder (European Patent Application No. 0 594 020).

Regarding to claim 1, Dunnleder discloses a fluid delivery system (Figure 5) comprising a storage vessel (6a) for fluid which feeds a first pipe (section 2 to section 15) work loop including a first pump (4a or 4b) which urges fluid through said first loop at a first pressure and which returns to said vessel, said system including at least one pipe work branch fed from said storage vessel or said first pipe work loop, said pipe work branch including a second pump (14a to 14c) which urges fluid through said pipe work branch at a second pressure downstream of said second pump, each pipe work branch terminating in a branch manifold (2a to 2c) having at least a fluid inlet and one or more fluid outlets to the latter of which are connected one or more hoses which feed one or more offtakes (Figure 5) from which fluid can be drawn from the system, each branch manifold providing a corresponding return manifold (section between 43a to 43c and pipe line 15 is defined a return manifold) in fluid communication with said first pipe work loop to which said offtakes are connected by further hoses such that fluid can flow from said branch manifold through said hoses and thence through said return manifold and characterized in that the fluid having flowed through the return manifold is returned to the vessel when the offtakes are closed and opening of said one or more offtakes (Figure 5), and thus the opening of said system to atmospheric pressure at one or more locations, causes the direction of fluid flow to reverse in the one or more hoses which connect said one or more opened offtakes with the return manifold, said one or more

Art Unit: 3753

opened offtakes being supplied with fluid from both the branch manifold and return manifold.

Regarding to claim 2, Dunnleder discloses a branch manifold is fed from the storage vessel (Figure 5).

Regarding to claim 2, Dunnleder discloses the branch and return manifolds have at least a fluid inlet and one or more fluid outlets (2a to 2c and section between 43a to 43c and pipe line 15), said branch and return manifolds being disposed downstream of said first and second pumps with fluid communication between said manifolds being achieved by at least one hose connectable to fluid outlets on respective manifolds and including one or more offtakes thus allowing fluid flow from the storage vessel (6a) through the pipe work branch (Figure 5), branch manifold (2a to 2c), hose (2, 11, and 15), return manifold (section between 43a to 43c and pipe line 15) and first pipe (section between 2 and 15) work loop ultimately returning to said storage vessel and permitting fluid offtake at a desired location (Figure 5).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

5. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

6. Claims 15-17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Dunnleder in view of Rjornsson (Patent No. 6,142,179).

Regarding claim 15, Dunnleder substantially discloses claimed subject matters, but fails to disclose a fluid cleaning components.

Rjornsson discloses a filter (Figure 1 element 4). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to have provided Dunnleder's device with a filter, as taught by Rjornsson, to insure the fluid inside is clean (Col 3 line 23-26).

Regarding to claim 16, Dunnleder discloses an opening of an offtake that causes the supply of fluid to that offtake via respective pipes from the branch and return manifold and does not affect the fluid in the pipe work to the other offtakes. Dunnleder discloses a first pump in a first pipe work loop and 3 pumps in a second pipe work loop, to insure the fluid system functions effectively.

Regarding to claim 17, Dunnleder discloses a series of offtakes, and a series of return line to the return manifold (Figure 5 element 12), wherein the opening of said offtake or a series of offtakes causes the direction of fluid flow to reverse in the one or more pipes which connect said one or more opened offtakes with the return manifold.

Conclusion

7. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Bae (US Patent No. 6,918,406) discloses a first pipe loop with a pump, a second pipe loop with a second pump, and a series of offtakes. Rocheleau (US Patent No. 6,546,898) discloses a first pipe loop with a pump and a second pipe loop, a branch and return manifold. Nagy (US Patent No. 2,865,614) discloses a first pipe loop with a pump, a second pipe loop with a second pump and a branch manifold. Maier (US Patent No. 5,22,156) discloses a first pipe loop with a pump, a second pipe loop with a second pump. Brown (US Patent No. 6,499,670) discloses a first pipe loop with a pump and a series of offtakes.

8. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Cloud K. Lee whose telephone number is (571)272-7206. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Eric Keasel can be reached on (571)272-4929. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Art Unit: 3753

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

CL

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Eric Keasel". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Eric" and last name "Keasel" clearly distinguishable.

Eric Keasel

Acting SPE